

Anti-bribery and corruption Policy

2024

valwade
RECRUITMENT



COMPLIANCE

Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy

One of the Company's core values is to uphold responsible and fair business practice. It is committed to promoting and maintaining the highest level of ethical standards in relation to all of its business activities. Its reputation for maintaining lawful business practices is of paramount importance and this Policy is designed to preserve these values. The Company therefore has a zero tolerance policy towards bribery and corruption and is committed to acting fairly and with integrity in all of its business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems to counter bribery.

This Policy sets out the steps all of us must take to prevent bribery and corruption in our business[es] and to comply with relevant legislation.

It is aimed at:

- ensuring compliance with anti-bribery laws, rules and regulations, not just within the UK but in any other country within which the Company may carry out its business or in relation to which its business may be connected;
- enabling any Relevant Person to understand the risks associated with bribery and to encourage them to be vigilant and effectively recognise, prevent and report any wrongdoing, whether by themselves or others;
- providing suitable and secure reporting and communication channels and ensuring that any information that is reported is properly and effectively dealt with;
- creating and maintaining a rigorous and effective framework for dealing with any suspected instances of bribery or corruption.

All Relevant Persons are expected to adhere to the principles set out in this Policy.

The Bribery Act 2010

The Bribery Act 2010 (the Bribery Act) came into force on 1 July 2011. The Bribery Act affects the Company in its business relations anywhere in the world.

Under the Bribery Act it is an offence to:

- bribe a person i.e. to offer, promise or give a financial or other advantage to another person, whether within the UK or abroad, with the intention of inducing or rewarding improper conduct;
- receive a Bribe i.e. to request, agree to receive or accept a financial or other advantage for or in relation to improper conduct;
- bribe a foreign public official; and fail to prevent Bribery.

Risks of not acting with integrity

Involvement in Bribery or corruption carries many risks. Among them are:

- a company which pays or accepts Bribes is not in control of its business and is at risk of blackmail;
- if the Company is found guilty of Bribery or even off failing to have adequate procedures in place to prevent Bribery it will be subject to unlimited fines;
- any person found guilty of Bribery will be subject to fines and/or imprisonment of up to 10 years;
- a public exposure, or even allegation, of bribery would entail severe reputational damage.
- could be blacklisted as an approved tenderer for both public and private sector contracts; the cost of our insurance cover could increase very significantly;

Benefits of acting with integrity: there are very clear benefits to acting with propriety. These include:

- Val Wade Recruitment increase our chances of being selected as a supplier in both the public and private sectors;
- Val Wade Recruitment remain in good standing with our banks and our own suppliers and they will want to keep doing business with us;
- a business with high ethical standards is a good place to work; and
- it is a requirement of the REC Code of Professional Practice that Val Wade Recruitment act with integrity at all times.

Policy statement

All Relevant Persons and Associated Persons are required at all times:

- not to commit an offence listed above at section 4 or any other offence;
- to comply with the Bribery Act and any other anti-bribery and anti-corruption legislation that applies in any jurisdiction in any part of the world in which they or the Company might conduct business];
- to act honestly, responsibly and with integrity;
- to safeguard and uphold the Company's core values by operating in an ethical, professional and lawful manner at all times.

Bribery of any kind is strictly prohibited. Under no circumstances should any provision be made, money set aside or accounts created for the purposes of facilitating the payment or receipt of a Bribe. Val Wade Recruitment recognises that industry practices may vary from country to country or from culture to culture. What is considered unacceptable in one place may be normal or usual practice in another. You should seek appropriate guidance from a director of the Company. All Relevant Persons and all Associated Persons are expected to adhere strictly at all times to the guidelines set out in this Policy.

Gifts and Hospitality

Complete this section according to the Company's policy on gifts and hospitality.

Option A:

This Policy covers the offer or receipt of gifts, hospitality or expenses to ensure that any legitimate expenditure is recorded and does not improperly affect the outcome of procurement, application or any other business transaction.

Val Wade Recruitment forbids any Relevant Person from soliciting any gift or hospitality in the course of his/her employment or engagement with the Company or, if a corporate entity, for the duration of any contract between that corporate entity and the Company.

Val Wade Recruitment forbids any Relevant Person from offering or receiving from any person or organisation who has had, has or may have any influence over the business of the Company:

- a personal or corporate gift to a value in excess of £50;
- hospitality to a value in excess of £100.

Val Wade Recruitment forbids any officer, employee, temporary worker or contractor of the Company from offering or receiving any gift or hospitality which is in breach of relevant law.

Val Wade Recruitment forbids any Relevant Person either directly or indirectly from making an offer of, or making a donation to any political, charitable or not for profit organisation in the course of his/her employment or engagement with the Company or, if a corporate entity, for the duration of any contract between that corporate entity and the Company, as a way to obtain an advantage in a business transaction.

Val Wade Recruitment may exercise its discretion to permit gifts or hospitality which exceeds the threshold limits in paragraph 2. This discretion may only be exercised by the Managing Director.

All Relevant Persons must enter details of all gifts and hospitality made or received which are permitted by paragraphs 2, 4 and 5, onto the Central Register of Gifts. The Central Register of Gifts is reviewed and monitored by the Managing Director and the management of the Company and will be audited.

OR Option B:

Val Wade Recruitment [occasionally] provides gifts and hospitality to clients, customers, contractors, and suppliers. This is not prohibited by the Bribery Act provided the following requirements are met:

- the gift is not made with the intention of influencing a third party to obtain or retain business or a business advantage, or to reward the provision or retention of business or a business advantage;
- it complies with local laws;
- it is given in the Company's name, not in the giver's personal name;
- it does not include cash or a cash equivalent (such as gift vouchers);
- it is of an appropriate and reasonable type and value and given at an appropriate time;
- it is given openly, not secretly;
- it is approved in advance by a director of the Company.

In summary, it is not acceptable to give, promise to give, or offer, a payment, gift or hospitality with the expectation or hope that a business advantage will be received, or to reward a business advantage already given, or to accept a payment, gift or hospitality from a third party that you know or suspect is offered or provided with the expectation that it will obtain a business advantage for them.

Facilitation payments

Any payment or gift to a public official or other person to secure or accelerate the prompt or proper performance of a routine government procedure or process, otherwise known as a "facilitation payment", is also strictly prohibited. Facilitation payments are not commonly paid in the UK but they are common in some other jurisdictions.

What are the indicators of bribery? Common indicators of corruption include those listed below. There may well be others. For example:

- payments are for abnormal amounts (e.g. commission), or made in an unusual way, eg what would normally be a single payments is made in stages, through a bank account never previously used, or in a currency or via a country which has no connection with the transaction;

- process is bypassed for approval or sign-off of terms or submission of tender documents, payments, or other commercial matters; those whose job it is to monitor commercial processes (e.g Val Wade) may be prevented from or hindered in doing so:

- individuals are secretive about certain matters or relationships and/or insist on dealing with them personally. They may make trips at short notice without explanation, or have a more lavish lifestyle than expected:

- decisions are taken for which there is no clear rationale; records are incomplete or missing.

Charitable donations

Bribes may even be disguised as charitable donations. [Again, for that reason, donations Val Wade Recruitment make are approved by resolution of the Board and recorded.] Whilst individuals may of course make personal donations to charity, they should not do so on behalf of the Company without prior approval from the Board.

Local circumstances

Val Wade Recruitment understand that different parts of the world have different social and cultural customs. This does not affect our position that Val Wade Recruitment do not pay or accept bribes or act corruptly: we do not and will not. However, subject to that position, we understand the need to be sensitive to local customs. For example, there are cultures in which refusing (or even failing to offer) a gift is considered impolite, and could alienate a key contact. In such cases, please refer to the Managing Director who is responsible for establishing variations to this Policy.

Val Wade Recruitment is committed to taking appropriate action against Bribery and corruption. This may include either reporting the matter to an appropriate external government department, regulatory agency or the police and/or taking internal disciplinary action against relevant employees and/or terminating contracts with associated persons.

Val Wade Recruitment will keep your disclosure confidential during any investigation it undertakes to the extent that this is practical and appropriate in the circumstances. The Company will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this Policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken. The Company is also committed to ensuring nobody suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of refusing to take part in bribery or corruption, or because of reporting in good faith their suspicion that an actual or potential bribery or corruption offence has taken place or may take place in the future or because they may assist in the investigation of an allegation of Bribery or corruption.

Record keeping

All accounts, receipts, invoices and other documents and records relating to dealings with third parties must be prepared

and maintained with strict accuracy and completeness. No accounts must be kept "off the record" to facilitate or conceal improper payments.

Monitoring compliance

The Company's Managing Director has primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with this Policy and will review its contents on a regular basis. She will be responsible for monitoring its effectiveness and will provide regular reports in this regard to the directors of the Company who have overall responsibility for ensuring this Policy complies with the Company's legal and ethical obligations.

Training

Val Wade Recruitment understand their duties and responsibilities under this Policy. The Company's zero tolerance approach to Bribery will also be communicated to all business partners at the outset of the business relationship with them and as appropriate thereafter.

Sanctions for breach of this Policy

A breach of any of the provisions of this Policy by any Relevant Person who is an officer or employee of the Company will constitute a disciplinary offence and will be dealt with in accordance with the Company's disciplinary procedure. Depending on the gravity of the offence, it may be treated as gross misconduct and could render the officer or employee liable to summary dismissal.

Breach of this policy by any Relevant Person who is a temporary worker, contractor or consultant providing his/ her services to the Company may lead to the immediate termination of that temporary worker's, contractor's or consultant's engagement by the Company.

Breach of this policy by any Relevant Person which is a corporate entity could lead to the suspension or termination of any relevant contract, sub-contract or other agreement between the corporate entity and the Company.